REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended merely for clarification. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Brendan N. McCommas and Twyler L. Haskins in the April 16, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I.   Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claim 1 is objected to because of alleged informalities. In particular, the Examiner recommends changing the word "and" following the phrase "incapable of executing" with the word "the." Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant asserts that the phrase is correct. The last paragraph of independent claims 1 and 8 teach that if a service processing apparatus is incapable of executing the service, the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates "second cooperation instruction information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service ... and services following it." Thus, the cooperative processing apparatus executes the service that was unperformed and subsequent services in the plurality of services to be performed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II.   Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Machida, U.S. Patent No. 6,642,943. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

During the personal interview, the Examiners agreed that Machida fails to disclose or suggest a cooperation instruction information generating unit for generating, if a service processing apparatus which is requested for executing a service by the service execution requesting unit has become incapable of executing the service, second cooperation instruction

information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing and services following it, <u>without user intervention</u>, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited as method claim 8.

Machida is directed to a data processing apparatus and method which can communicate with various devices connected with a communication medium to functionally combine the devices with each other (Abstract and col. 1, lines 15-30). According to Machida, a user is able to view and select from a plurality of devices available to the user (devices whose drivers are not installed are grayed out), through a CRT 16 (col. 9, line 39 - col. 10, line 23). Machida teaches that when a user wishes to combine devices to work on a data, the user executes the combination by a drag-and-drop operation, using a mouse. However, if it is judged that the combination of devices selected by the user is not effective or invalid due to problems with the devices selected, an error message is displayed to the user and the user must perform drag-and-drop operation until a valid combination is achieved (col. 11, line 52 - col. 12, line 45; col. 23, line 41 - col. 24, line 34; and col. 26, line 12 - 48).

Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiners, Machida's system does not generate <u>second cooperation instruction information</u> that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing and services following it, <u>without user intervention</u>, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 8.

During the personal interview, the Examiners agreed that because Machida's system judges whether or not the combination of the dragged-icon device and the dropped-icon device is appropriate (i.e., effective or available) and notifies the user of such a judged result and demands to again perform the instruction operation, Machida's system is unable to request

another device to perform a service on a document that it is unable to perform, <u>without user intervention</u>.

Therefore, Machida fails to disclose all of the features of independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8 are allowable. Dependent claims 2-7 and 9-14 are allowable for their dependence on independent claims 1 and 8 and for additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III.   Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Machida, in view of Ochiai, U.S. Patent No. 7,085,763. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.
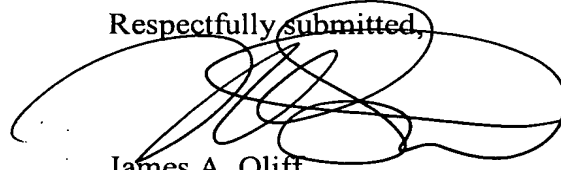
Ochiai fails to overcome the deficiencies of Machida with respect to independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, claims 7 and 14 are allowable for their dependence on independent claims 1 and 8, respectively, and for the additional features recited therein.

IV.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:LMS/ccs

Attachment:
    RCE Transmittal

Date: May 30, 2008

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